

Huxtable to retire after more the 30 years of military service

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Phillips takes charge of Virginia Army National Guard



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Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, said that Phillips is the "right guy at the right time" who has "a lot of skill and talent and has certainly done a lot things that we can all be proud of."

Phillips' wife Renee and his mother Florence conducted the promotion along with Long. After the promotion, he thanked his family for their support, and also thanked several leaders he served with for their leadership, mentorship, guidance and support.

Long announced Sept. 20 that Phillips would be promoted to brigadier general and assume responsibilities for the position from Brig. Gen. Stephen L. Huxtable, who is retiring after more than 30 years of military service.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/Phillipspromotion.html>

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

DEA, Virginia Guard destroy tons of drugs

Under Drug Enforcement Administration escort, six Soldiers from the Martinsville-based 1173rd Transportation Company transported 5,182 lbs. of prescription and over-the-counter medications Sept. 29 to an incinerator for destruction as part of the DEA National Drug Take Back Day held Sept. 25.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/takebackdrugs.html>

NATO staff visits 29th ID troops in advance of Afghan deployment

Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division welcomed visiting senior leaders of NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan Oct. 2, and the visit provided an opportunity to learn more about their upcoming mission in Afghanistan.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/NTMAvisit.html>

Warrior Training Center teaches Pathfinder to Guardsmen

A five-man mobile training team from the Fort Benning-based Army National Guard's Warrior Training Center taught the U.S. Army Pathfinder Course to 47 National Guard Soldiers at Fort Pickett Sept. 11-24.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/pathfinder.html>

Tajik officers join leaders from 183rd RTI, Virginia OCS for training seminar

The 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute and the Virginia Officer Candidate School hosted a delegation of three Tajik field grade officers from the Tajikistan Military Institute, as well as Maj. Joe Gross, a U.S. Embassy liaison in Tajikistan, Sept. 20-24 as part of the State Partnership Program.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/TajikOCS.html>

Mark Your Calendars!

Oct. 14: CFC Kick Off

The Virginia National Guard will kick off the 2010 Combined Federal Company at 4:30 p.m. in Building 316 at Fort Pickett. For more info contact 2nd Lt. Timothy Braxton by phone at 434-298-6211 or timothy.braxton@us.army.mil.

Oct. 22: Fort Pickett Masquerade Ball

Fort Pickett will host its 2nd Annual Masquerade Ball from 7 to 12 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person or \$40 for a couple and proceeds benefit the Fort Pickett MWR.

Oct. 23: Fort Pickett Fall Festival

Fort Pickett will host its 2nd Annual Fall Festival and Open House 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the hangar on the airfield featuring static displays, a fishing casting tournament and games for kids.

Virginia Defense Force conducts annual FTX

Fort Pickett served as the area of operations for the Virginia Defense Force's field training exercises from Oct. 1-Oct. 3. The division-wide exercise involved over 500 volunteers from all areas of the Commonwealth who came to hone their emergency management skills.

Maj. Gen. John D. Taylor, commander of the VDF, described the broad training mission as continued development of "support for the Virginia National Guard by aiding in the relief of suffering and injury to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia during times of disaster."

The Lafayette, Highland and Black Horse Brigade personnel had specific training duties in support of field operations while also attending simulated exercises like medical triage.

Further, the brigades supported the communications exercise being conducted by Division Toop Command's Signal Battalion. During this exercise the aviation battalion was testing the Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation Portable system, a system that provides real-time live aerial video to ground command.

The mission was to monitor the Riverine Detachment's movements during their water-based operations. Piloting the aircraft was 2nd Lt. Steve Walton of Accomack County, Va. This was his sixth mission using the GIIEP system, and personnel from Company A from the Signal Battalion supported him in flight. The Riverine Detachment used the mission to not only sharpen its multi-unit communication capabilities and response time from aerial reconnaissance, but also to qualify team members, test equipment and evaluate capabilities for craft launch in limited development areas.

Through the use of demonstrations on less than lethal security and a field exercise, Oleoresin Capsicum "OC" spray training, the military police battalion continued developing personnel in crowd control techniques. Pfc. Tessa G. Smith, a JROTC student at Patrick Henry High School, celebrated her 18th birthday by learning how to fight through OC induced 'blindness.' She stated her confidence was "due to training by the skilled instructors before going through the experience." Working to obtain a West Point Academy appointment, Smith saw this training and the VDF MP certification as an opportunity to "build [her] skills and provide an experience to differentiate [her] from other applicants."

With this year's emphasis on expansion of VDF force size, almost 20% of the personnel at the weekend's FTX were engaged in Basic Enlisted Leadership Training or BELT. The training covered the VDF's mission, drill and ceremony, VDF history, as well as other fundamentals of being a VDF member. Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, spoke with the BELT troops about the importance of their mission while recognizing their volunteer commitment. Spc. Chavis Carter said of his experience, "The BELT program helped me to further understand the mission of the VDF and what we stand for. Throughout the program I met others who shared the same level of patriotism and honor to serve the commonwealth as I do.



Virginia Defense Force personnel trained on a system providing real-time video feed for aerial reconnaissance missions during their annual division-level field training exercise held at Fort Pickett Oct. 1-3.

Knowing that there were other people my age, older, and younger that shared similar principles as me helped push me to continue to move forward. I have gained a new level of pride to wear my BDU and serve the Commonwealth with the VDF."

During final formation, two brigade command changes were announced. With the retirement of Col. Gerald S. Vintinner, command of the Norfolk-based Lafayette Brigade was assigned to Col. John R. Fortune, Jr., also known as Swift Fox of the Rappahannock Tribe. A native of Richmond, Va., Fortune spent 26 years active duty with the Virginia Army National Guard and has completed three combat tours. Command of the Roanoke-based Highland Brigade was assigned to Col. Chad Wheelus.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/VDFFTX.html>

MORE ON THE WEB

Warriors from Virginia compete in All-Army Combatives

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/ArmyCombatives.html>

Yellow Ribbon prepares 29th Infantry Division Soldiers, families for deployment

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/29thYRP.html>

Langley maintainers, logisticians earn best LCAP evaluation pass rate over past 2 years

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct10/192dLCAP.html>

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